

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK COMMUNICATION

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A communications network is disclosed in which a data processing system combines
5 multiple instances of digital data into a single combined data stream. The combined data stream is
provided to a thin media client, which renders the data stream for display or playback. The pre-
processing tasks associated with combining multiple instances of digital data into a single data
stream are performed at the data processing system and not at any of the thin media clients. Sources
of digital data for the communications network may include stored digital content accessible by the
10 network, Internet content, or digital communications from household appliances.